



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

13 SEP 2000

MCIM (25)

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, U.S. Army Medical Command Major
Subordinate Commands/Installations/Activities

SUBJECT: Joint Information Management and Health Policy and
Services Policy 25-00-02, Policy for Maintaining Data Quality

1. PURPOSE: This policy establishes a prohibition on intentionally introducing fictitious data in a production system.
2. SCOPE: This policy memorandum applies to all information systems or information technology devices that are in production use in U.S. Army Medical Department facilities. Information Technology Devices include networked and non-network systems of all types including laptop computers, servers, embedded computer systems, communications systems, communications switching computers, personal computers, intelligent terminals, and any other devices used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information.
3. BACKGROUND: The Medical Expense Reporting System (MEPRS) Program Office identified a data quality problem caused by testing practices used during deployment of the Digital Imaging Network-Picture Archiving and Communications System (DIN-PACS). Testing procedures included introducing fictitious patients and physicians in the Composite Health Care System (CHCS) for testing DIN-PACS. Ultimately the fictitious data is transferred to the MEPRS resulting in erroneous workload reporting. The practice was identified specifically for DIN-PACS; however, we do not believe it is isolated to DIN-PACS. Introducing fictitious data in a production system corrupts data and impacts the quality of data provided to other systems. The practice must be discontinued in order to preserve data quality and the confidence that is placed in the data being provided by information systems and information technology devices.

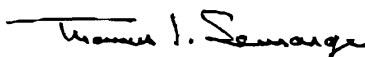
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4. The U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) policy is that no fictitious data may be intentionally introduced on a production system within the AMEDD. Organizations/agencies deploying systems must develop test procedures that do not jeopardize the data quality of production systems. Testing will be done using test databases in a simulated production environment coordinated by the test developer, program manager, and system developer (government or outsourced).

5. Our point of contact is Mr. Barzie Drewry, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Information Management, DSN 471-6836, Commercial (210) 221-6836, or electronic mail: barzie.drewry@cen.amedd.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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